

Title: The Music of the Tatra Mountains in Kazimierz Przerwa-Tetmajer's *In the Rocky Podhale*

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The Tatra Mountains are situated on the south border of Poland and Slovakia. They form the central and the highest section of the Carpathian Mountain crescent. The distinctive folklore of the Tatras reflected in early traditions, songs, dances, and art have been a source of inspiration for many artists, among them Kazimierz Przerwa-Tetmajer, who became a bard of the Tatra Mountains, a founder and a spiritual leader of the Tatra School.

Tetmajer composed the most captivating Tatra verses of the Young Poland literature included in the collection *Poems*. His Tatra and Highland lyrics constitute a prelude to his neo-romantic prose masterpieces *In the Rocky Podhale* and *The Legend of the Tatras*. In his literary work, Tetmajer created the myth of the Tatras and the Tatra Highlanders. He introduced to Polish literature new Tatra themes, historical figures of the highlands, Tatra folklore and music.

The Tatras were Tetmajer's home. It was the place where, as a child, he learned the tales, legends, beliefs, folklore, and music of the Tatra Mountains. The poet knew the highland dialect and music so well that he composed his own songs, included in *In the Rocky Podhale*.

This paper will examine some of Tetmajer's tales from *In the Rocky Podhale*, which feature highland songs, motifs from highland music and legendary Mountaineer musicians. Tetmajer interwove many highland expressions and songs with the Polish literary language to stylize his work, to offer the character of his native Tatra region, and to enrich and refresh his artistic language. The Highland dialect and songs are a source of power, freshness, and individuality that make Tetmajer's literary language beautiful and original.

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Panel: Music and Literature chaired by Alexander Burry